

Washington Merry-Go- Round

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(The author of this column is given the widest latitude. His views do not necessarily reflect those of THE MIRROR.)

WASHINGTON, April 24.

—Uncle Sam's security system is now so strict that even doodling by high officials is checked to make sure their subconscious scribbling doesn't reveal any secrets.

The doodles usually are burned if they are drawn during a secret conference.

Washington's champion doodler, Secretary of State Dulles, draws complex geometric designs.

It isn't likely these abstract patterns would give away any secrets, but on the chance a psychologist might get a clue to Dulles' secret thinking from them, aides scrupulously gather them up and stuff them into a briefcase after each meeting.

Secretary of Defense Wilson also doodles at his desk. He may jot down a word or figure or curlicue, but his staff doesn't bother to pick up after him. They are convinced his doodling would only confuse enemy agents.

Sensitive agencies, such as the Atomic Energy Commission and Central Intelligence Agency, automatically destroy all doodling or scribbling that has anything to do with secret work.

Atomic Energy Chairman Lewis Strauss does not doodle, but he



A. Dulles L. Strauss
Top secret doodling

scrawls notes on tiny white pads and stuffs them in his pockets. He even keeps a pad by his bedside in case he should get an idea in the middle of the night.

But he always empties his pockets in his office and is careful to destroy notes that contain security information.

Central Intelligence chief Allen Dulles scribbles notes on sheets of long, lined yellow paper. His security-minded staff takes no chances and simply incinerates all his waste paper.

The same is true in other secret offices around Washington. Even doodling is often classified